



Jerry Clay Academy Newsletter

Issue 17. Thursday 29th March 2018



Dear Parents

The Spring holidays are here!

I would like to personally wish you all an enjoyable Easter break. This half term has flown but nevertheless we have achieved so much this term!

Here are some of the key highlights of Term 2 at JCA:

- Standards in learning have continued to rise in all year groups, with us all evaluating that our standards are even higher this year than any other year previously. Our ethos is embedded now and striving for the very best is the norm!
- Over 80% of our children have participated in our extra-curricular club programme offering them enrichment to our curriculum
- Over 40% of our children now play a musical instrument
- We have helped to support over 70 schools in our region and beyond since becoming a National Support School in July 2018
- Our Junior Leadership team have grown in size and not only do they support the work of our school but they also help to raise the ambitions of other schools
- Our children have been given the opportunity to participate in over 8 tournaments this term
- We entered the prestigious Rothwell Music festival for the first time and won the under 11s competitive class for singing. We are now doing a showcase of our talents in the area.
- We received 100% positive feedback at our latest Parents evenings. Where everyone who completed a questionnaire strongly agreed or agreed that they were happy with their child's learning, communication and progress at our school. This is fantastic!

Thank you for your continuing support of our community. We cannot perform to our very best without the support of all of you. I particularly value the open, honest and ongoing feedback that I receive every day. Our Teachers have also commented on the continuing supportive relationships they have all developed with you.

As a school, we will continue to strive to be the best we can be. However, this would never be possible without the amazing dedication of all of my staff who go above and beyond in every aspect of school life. I would like to give thanks to all of them too and know that they too, deserve a wonderful rest.

National Support Work

As you all know, as a National Support School we are constantly helping other schools. Next term we will be heavily supporting just 1 school. This will mean that myself, as a National Leader of Education will be out at least once every week. In my absence Miss Brook and Mr Palin will be managing the school. My sole responsibility will always be with JCA; however, our passion is also to help as many children as possible have the best life chances.

Have a fantastic holiday and see you all back on Monday 16th April.

Mrs. T Swinburne



Sports news

Y5 and 6 West Yorkshire Police Football Tournament



Our Year 5 and 6 football team took part in the West Yorkshire Police U-11 football tournament on Tuesday 27th February 2018. The event was played at the Wakefield Indoor Football centre and was a great opportunity for the team to play against a number of other teams from across Wakefield. Jerry Clay reached the semi-finals but were knocked out after conceding two late goals. The team were the highest goal scorers of their group!

Well done to: Matthew, Lewis, Daniel, Sam, Luka, Spencer, Harry, Zach and William.



Music success



On Friday 23rd March, our academy choir travelled to Rothwell to compete in the prestigious Rothwell Music Festival. The festival has been going on since 1903! This was the first time we have ever entered into this competition, so it was something very big for our school!

Our children were absolutely amazing and rose to the occasion, singing first in the under 11s competitive section, the children sang with great diction and certainly impressed the judges.

At the end of the competition, we were ecstatic to be judged as the winners with a distinction. We were presented with a large shield that we have will keep for a year.

A huge thank you must go to our very talented music teacher, Mrs Elliott & Ruth Strydom for accompanying us on the piano.

A great uplifting experience!

Well done to all of our children!



Special mentions of the term



Special mentions of the term were awarded to pupils whom teachers felt have really stood out during the whole term. These children were chosen because they demonstrate all of our learner traits each and every day consistently. A huge achievement for these children! Well done!

Week beginning : 29th March 2018

Reception - Hadley Olbison

Year 1– Scarlett Black

Year 2– Maia Malerska

Year 3– Adam Bentley

Year 4– Jessica Asquith

Year 5– Bethany Balmforth

Year 6– Ruby Edwards



Attendance winners

As you know as a school we are really focusing on excellent attendance. As a whole school we have set a target for the year of **97.4%.**

Please see overall percentages for each class, this term:

Reception—97.50%

Year 1– 99.19%

Year 2–99.17%

Year 3–93.33%

Year 4–93.33%

Year 5–95.83%

Year 6– 92.74%

WHOLE SCHOOL, SINCE SEPTEMBER– 96.76%

It has been a really turbulent term for attendance due the many illnesses that have been circulating this winter. We absolutely understand that this is unavoidable. However, as we move into the summer term, we are expecting attendance to really pick back up as we are aiming for 97.3% overall for the year. This places us as having outstanding attendance.

OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE = OUTSTANDING LEARNING

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

Year 1

What a fantastic half term Year 1 have had! We have definitely had 2 very busy, fun filled, last 2 weeks before summer! Year 1 had an uplifting and inspiring tea party at The Glynn last week. They spent so much time and care into planning every little detail, right down to the sandwiches, to ensure the residents had the best day!

In Literacy, we have been finishing our stories of 'The Robot and The Bluebird'. We have been striving high to include time connectives, conjunctions and exciting vocabulary and adjective to write and exciting high quality retell. We cannot wait to publish them!

In Art, we have been persevering to produce our own robots using charcoal and chalk to create highlights and shadows for a 3D effect.

In Maths, we have been exploring subtraction and we can now confidently use a number line to solve 2 digit subtraction problems up to 30!



Miss Mitchell & Miss Belford

Year 2

We have enjoyed the last two weeks of the 'Do We Always Appreciate What We've Got?' topic. We have learnt about Nelson Mandela and his importance not only to South Africa, but to the whole world. In addition, we have also baked a traditional South African dessert called Malva Pudding which usually follows Sunday dinner. We enjoyed the tasting, especially the sweet sauce to go with it!! We followed this up by writing instructions for making it.

In Maths, we have continued to learn about shapes and now know how to describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes using the correct vocabulary.



Mr Palin & Mrs Fitton, Mrs Rex & Mrs Khan

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

Year 3

Year 3 have been working really hard in maths to understand fractions and how to solve fractions of an amount. In literacy, we have edited, finalised and published our persuasive letters to Mrs Swinburne in regards to holding a football tournament. In science, we have been continuing to look at forces and magnets to experiment which objects in everyday life are magnetic. In art we have been completing some observational drawings of daffodil us-



ing a range of techniques to make these look 3D. Finally, we are been using different shapes in gymnastics to produce a sequence of moves in small groups.

Miss Firth & Mrs Smith

Year 4

Last week, Year 4 persevered to write a story set in the rainforest. Full of great description and suspense, these were very exciting to read. We are concluding our topic by focussing on the issues of plastic pollution that are regularly headline news. We found out about sea turtles that have been around since the time of the dinosaurs but are now threatened or endangered. After researching how sea turtles travel thousands of miles around the world's oceans before nesting on the same beach from which they hatched, we role-played the jobs that sea turtle scientists do to protect these magnificent creatures. We produced some thoughtful 'A day in the life' writing.



In Literacy, we are now writing an explanation of why plastic is a problem. In Maths, we have moved onto learning about decimals, demonstrating our understanding of tenths and hundredths with place value grids and hundred squares. Well done Year 4.



their own adven-

Mrs Elliott & Mrs Hart

Curriculum over the last 2 weeks at JCA

Year 6

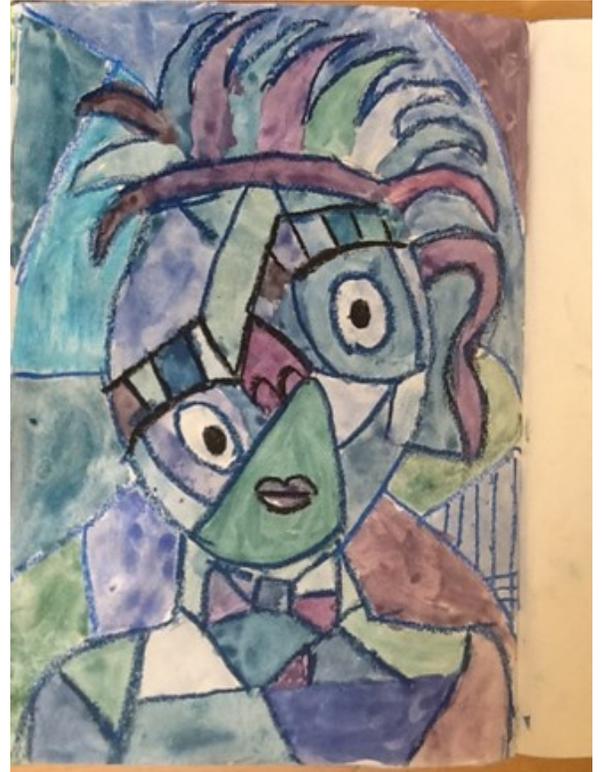
The last two weeks of this very short half term have continued to be busy in Year 6. We have been completing our diaries on Wonder and have finally completed our Picasso inspired pieces that complement the Wonder book that we have been using as a stimulus in Literacy. These are now on display in school and we have had some lovely comments on how great they look.

As you know, the SAT tests are quickly coming up and we have spent some time doing practise papers.

The results of these are impressive but this does defi-



nitely not define us. We been finishing off our topic looking at Extreme Earth weather and have



been learning about the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004. We were certainly shocked by the power and destruction water can cause.

Miss Brook & Mrs Wilkinson

Year 5 trip to London

Year 5 London Visit and beyond!

Year 5 had a fantastic visit to London!! Since our return, we have been following up on this with a mini-topic on London, where we have been completing report writing based on London landmarks as well as London Art work, focussing on these too.

Our visit

We set off early at 8am, stopping in at the services en route to the big city! As we approached, we could see Wembley stadium from the motorway. We knew we were getting close!!



Our coach driver, Gary, gave us a commentary of some of the famous sights as we went past – we even drove down the Mall, right next to Buckingham Palace. The Queen was in (twitching the curtains!) as the flag was flying high.

After our coach tour, we were dropped off outside the Cambridge Theatre, for our visit to see a performance of Matilda! The children's faces as we stepped into the theatre were priceless. The stage set was phenomenal and we were all sat on the first three rows-right next to the stage!! The characters' breath could be seen and one of them even mouthed something to Salina during the show! Swings flew over our heads, as well as paper aeroplanes-it was spectacular.



At the end of the show, Gary – our coach driver - collected us and we headed towards our next stop. We had another mini-tour of London, amazed by the pure amount of people. Not to mention the fantastic cars we could spot on the roads!



Gary drove us to our beds for the night – The HMS Belfast. As this was a WWII War ship, there were so many interesting artefacts on board. We even had to walk past a torpedo to get to our deck! Our concierge, Stuart, walked us to our deck, down the ladders and we got our beds ready and changed ready for tea.

Our delicious pizza delivery arrived and we enjoyed our tea after a long day. We then watched a bit of a film then started to get ready for bed – some of us got to sleep earlier than others!

The following morning, we awoke early (far earlier than our teachers expected!!) as we were very excited for the day ahead. Unlimited cereals and toast set us up for our busy itinerary. Because we were there whilst the ship was celebrating its 80th birthday, the This Morning crew from ITV were on board; we were able to spend some time talking to some old veterans and the film crew even asked us to be on the show so we filmed some footage! It was very exciting!

Year 5 trip to London

We set off on our next adventure, walking across the very special Tower bridge:



We

then headed to our city cruise, which took us on a magnificent journey down the River Thames to the London Eye. It was fantastic to take a ride on this iconic wheel. The whole class went inside a pod – we were surprised at how large the pod was! Viewing London was amazing, and any nerves about heights soon diminished. We had a sing and dance and, generally, just a fantastic time!

Our adventure still wasn't over, and, for some, the



best bit of the journey was yet to come! We caught the river cruise back to the Tower of London. In the restaurant, we ate our lunch and then we looked at the crown jewels, the torture tower, found out about the history of the ravens and saw them in action and much more!! Another fantastic landmark to have visited.

Our final step was walking back to pick up our bags from the ship, then heading to the coach to set off home, via McDonalds! It was a truly memory-making visit and our children were little superstars! Well done Year 5-you made this a fantastic visit, asking lots of questions and being interested in everything in our very special capital city of London!



Diamond Dash at Jerry Clay Academy



We know that children who do their times tables at home are more likely to be more successful in all of their mathematical learning. We have been heightening our Diamond Dash initiative in school and we are pleased to report that the following children have achieved a Diamond Dash Certificate this week:.

Year 1

Prja
Lara
Ethan
Joshua
Mohammed
Samuel
Isabel
Scarlett
Riley
George
Taylor
Florence
Theo
Cody
Alex
Kyle
Ryder
Jana
Mia
Amira

Year 2

Joella
Aadam

Year 5

Esme
Alfie

We have now signed up for full access to [Timestable Rock](#), so please do encourage your children to go on this.



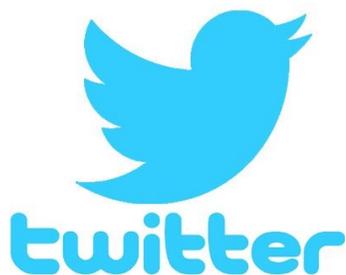


April Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
All children back to school		Health Living Workshop- School Nurs- ing Services- Children only		
23	24	25	26	27
			RESCHEDULED Phonics Coffee Morning for par- ents at 9.15am	
30				

Please be aware that we will be sending you paper calendars on our first day back for the whole term.

**Follow us today!
Our username is
@JCAWakefield**



Twitter is our constant online newsletter. Everyday we update it with pictures, videos and information about what our children have been learning and different things we, as a school, are excited about! It is FREE to join and is available on all phones, tablets and computers. We already have many parents who 'follow us' on Twitter but we really would like you all to see everything that we do. We have created this handy hints guide to help you understand Twitter, and, as you will see, it is very easy navigate!